

	FIREARM OFFENSE INVESTIGATIONS	Operations Order 7.24.00
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1. **FIREARM OFFENSES**

- A. When officers are investigating firearms related offences (primarily those located in ARS Title 13, Chapter 31) and assistance or investigative support is necessary, they should contact the Crime Gun Intelligence Unit (CGIU) in the Violent Crimes Bureau (VCB).
- B. When officers respond to an incident that requires specialized firearm experience, they are encouraged to contact an on-duty/on-call CGIU detective for assistance. Examples of incidents where CGIU should be consulted:
 - Presence of prohibited weapons – full auto/machine guns, firearms equipped with a machine gun conversion device (MCD) (e.g. Glock switches, AR style drop in sears or any other sear that converts a semi-auto to full-auto)
 - Illegal firearms manufacturing
 - Illegal firearms trafficking
 - Dealing firearms without a license
 - Incidents where multiple individuals participated in an exchange of gunfire (several different guns/shooters involved and no gunfire related injuries are present)
 - Any incident that involves NIBIN leads
 - Crimes involving Federal Firearms License (FFL) dealers
 - Investigations where a large amount of firearms are seized
 - Investigations where a large amount of firearms were stolen
 - Any incident where a firearm was present or discharged and the scene is unusually complex (multiple scenes, search warrant required, multiple suspects to be interviewed, multiple victims, or multiple witnesses to be interviewed)
- C. Officers who respond to a call of theft, burglary, or robbery at a retail business or pawn shop (any FFL dealer) in which firearms have been taken, should immediately contact the VCB desk sergeant and request the contact information for the on-call CGIU supervisor. Once notified, CGIU personnel will notify the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) immediately and coordinate a response, when necessary.
 - (1) ATF requests that crime scene processing be suspended until an ATF agent arrives to participate jointly in the investigation.
 - (2) CGIU will coordinate with the Property Crimes Detail (PCB) to coordinate a response to these incidents if they have not been previously advised.
- D. If patrol responds to a FFL reference a loss/theft of any firearm, CGIU should be contacted immediately. These incidents must be reported to the ATF, and CGIU will make the notification.
- E. Department personnel will consult with CGIU before submitting a case and/or when working with a prosecuting agency to charge individual/s for firearms manufacturing, selling firearms without a license, firearms trafficking, or any other related offense.
 - If they offense involves, promotes, or furthers the interest of a criminal street gang, the Gang Enforcement Unit (GEU) should also be contacted.
- F. If officers encounter a subject in possession of a prohibited weapon as defined in [ARS 13-3101.A.8](#), they should consult with CGIU to ensure it is function tested and/or expert opinion can be drafted in a timely manner.

NOTE: [ARS 13-3102.C.4](#) authorizes individuals whom are “specifically license, authorized, or permitted pursuant to a statute of this state or the United States” to possess certain weapons that are otherwise a prohibited weapon.

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1. F. (1) When possible, prohibited weapons should be impounded at the 620 Basement Impound location. (See [Operations Order 5.8.06, Impound Locations, Section 1.H](#))

- G. Department personnel will consult with CGIU before actively investigating a “NIBIN lead” as defined in [Operations Order 8.6.00, NIBIN investigations](#).

- In a case where a NIBIN lead has been established, consult with CGIU before submitting a case and/or when working with a prosecuting agency to charge individual/s.

2. **POSSESSION OF WEAPONS IN PHOENIX TRANSIT SYSTEM VEHICLES OR FACILITIES**

- A. If a Phoenix Transit System employee reports a subject with a weapon while on a transit vehicle or within a transit facility, officers will respond and provide appropriate assistance.

- B. Officers are reminded the act of carrying a weapon under these circumstances does not alone constitute a crime.

- (1) Our goal will be to remove the armed subject and prevent re-boarding in accordance with the Phoenix Transit System policy.
- (2) Officers are strongly cautioned that approaching armed persons inside a bus is extremely hazardous and should be avoided.

C. Response Procedures

(1) Subject Threatening with a Weapon	• Officers will respond as to any other potentially hazardous call for service. • Established procedures regarding potential hostage/barricade situations should be followed. • If possible, officers should: * Immobilize the bus * Determine which passenger is the suspect * Evacuate the passengers * Instruct the armed subject to exit the bus * Maintain a position of cover while negotiating with the subject • If the subject refuses to exit the bus, a supervisor will contact the Special Assignments Unit (SAU) for assistance.
(2) Unwanted Guest/ Trespassing , Subject Armed	The Phoenix Transit System policy calls for drivers to feign a mechanical breakdown and park their vehicle in these situations and not to proceed until the armed subject is removed or leaves without police contact. • Operators will maintain contact via transit radio and will be requested to meet officers outside the vehicle when possible. • Officers will contact the Phoenix Transit System operator or the responsible person requesting police service, meeting the operator <u>OFF THE BUS</u>. If the <u>subject with the weapon is still inside the bus</u>, officers may use the public address (PA) loudspeaker in their patrol car or the portable PA from a supervisor's vehicle to advise the subject to exit the bus. • If the subject refuses to exit, officers will continue to attempt to persuade the subject by use of the PA system. • The individual should be advised that he is trespassing and subject to arrest • If the subject still refuses to exit the bus, a supervisor will contact SAU. • If the <u>subject exits the bus without incident</u>, officers will accompany the transit system representative when contacting the subject of the call outside the bus and away from other passengers. (continued on next page)

2. C. Response Procedures (continued)

(2) Unwanted Guest/ Trespassing , Subject Armed	• The transit system representative will inform the subject of the no-weapons policy of the Phoenix Transit System and state the subject will be arrested for trespassing if boarding the bus with a weapon. • If the subject complies with the request to stay off the bus while armed, the subject will be released. • An FI will be completed. If the subject does not heed the reasonable request to exit or attempts to re-board the bus, the transit system representative may proceed with a citizen's arrest for trespassing. • Officers may utilize an ATTC, if appropriate, release the subject, and complete an IR. * In aggravated circumstances, the subject may be booked.
NOTE: Refunding bus fare is the responsibility of the Phoenix Transit System.	

3. For additional information regarding firearm violations at schools, see [Operations Order 7.28.00, School Related Threats/Violence](#).

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